

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 8, 2008. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9 to 12, 14, 15, 17 to 19, 21, 22, and 25 to 27 are pending in the application, although the Examiner failed to consider that Claims 23 and 24 were canceled in the previous Amendment (May 28, 2008). Claims 1, 2, 21, 22 and 25 to 27 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9 to 12, 14, 15, 17 to 19, and 21 to 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,809,831 (Minari). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 21 and 25

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing method of recording or accumulating job log information on a job issued from a client computer to an image forming apparatus. The method includes an acquisition step of acquiring the job log information from the client computer or the image forming apparatus, wherein the job log information includes driver information identifying a driver program which is performed in the client computer and generates the issued job; a driver information acquisition step of acquiring the driver information from the job log information acquired in the acquisition step; a determination step of determining whether or not to record or accumulate the job log information acquired in the acquisition step, in accordance with the driver information acquired in the driver information acquisition step; and a recording/accumulation step of recording or accumulating the job log information determined in the determination step to be recorded or accumulated. In the determination step, it is determined by using the driver

information that the job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a printout should not be recorded or accumulated.

Claims 21 and 25 are directed to a server and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that Minari neither discloses nor suggests all of the features of Claims 1, 21 and 25. Specifically, Minari fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of acquiring driver information from job log information and determining that the job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a printout should not be recorded or accumulated in accordance with the acquired driver information.

In contrast to the present invention, Minari discloses that a printer performs printing processing based on a print job object sent from a host computer and adds a result of the processing (such as success or failure) to the print job object that is sent it back to the host computer. In Minari, the print job object has an attribute for specifying a printer to be used for printing the print job object. The attribute includes a printer name, printing request, paper size, etc. For example, after S902 in Fig. 9 of Minari, it is disclosed that printer 107 refers to the attribute of the received print job object, performs printing processing based on the print job object when the attribute specifies the printer as “107”, and transfers the print job object to the other printer set in the attribute when the attribute does not specify the printer as “107.” In addition, Minari discloses in Fig. 10 that the attribute may be used for processing the received print job object by determining whether or not the attribute in the print job object matches an attribute of the printer 107. Finally, Figs. 9 and 10 disclose that a printer determines whether or not print processing of the print job object should be performed in the printer itself or an alternative device.

In the present invention, driver information is acquired from job log information. The driver information is used to determine that job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a resultant printout should not be recorded or accumulated. This makes it possible to limit information to be accumulated by not accumulating information about print jobs that don't result in a printout being generated.

In light of the deficiencies in Minari, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 21 and 25 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 2, 22 and 26

Amended independent Claim 2 is directed to an information processing method of recording or accumulating job log information on a job issued from a client computer connectable to an image forming apparatus. The method comprises an acquisition step of acquiring the job log information from the client computer, wherein the job log information includes port information, a port information acquisition step of acquiring the port information from the job log information acquired in the acquisition step, a determination step of determining whether or not to record or accumulate the job log information acquired in the acquisition step, in accordance with the port information acquired in the port information acquisition step and a recording/accumulation step of recording or accumulating the job log information determined in the determination step to be recorded or accumulated, wherein, in the determination step, it is determined by using the port information that the job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a printout should not be recorded or accumulated.

Claims 22 and 26 are directed to a server and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 2.

Applicant respectfully submits that Minari neither discloses nor suggests all of the features of Claims 2, 22 and 26. Specifically, Minari fails to disclose or suggest at least a port information acquisition step of acquiring port information from job log information acquired in an acquisition step and a determination step of determining that the job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a printout should not be recorded or accumulated in accordance with the port information acquired in the port information acquisition step.

As discussed above, Minari discloses a print job object that has an attribute for specifying a printer to be used for printing the print job object. For example, it is disclosed that a printer refers to the attribute of a received print job object and performs printing processing based on whether or not the print job object attribute specifies the printer, and transfers the print job object to another printer set in the attribute when the attribute does not specify the printer. In addition, Minari discloses that the attribute may be used for processing the received print job object by determining whether or not the attribute in the print job object matches an attribute of the printer. Finally, Minari discloses that a printer determines whether or not print processing of the print job object should be performed in the printer itself or an alternative device using the attribute.

However, in the present invention, port information is acquired from job log information and a determination is made as to whether or not to record or accumulate the job log information in accordance with the acquired port information. This makes it possible to limit information to be accumulated by not accumulating information about print jobs that don't result in a printout being generated based on port information. In light of this deficiency in Minari, Applicant submits that Claims 2, 22 and 26 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 27

Claim 27 is directed to an information processing method of recording or accumulating job log information on a job issued from a client computer connectable to an image forming apparatus. The method comprises an acquisition step of acquiring the job log information from the client computer, an output destination determination step of determining whether the output destination of the job corresponding to the job log information is the client computer, a determination step of determining whether or not to record or accumulate the job log information acquired in the acquisition step, in accordance with the result of determination in the output destination determination step and a recording/accumulation step of recording or accumulating the job log information determined in the determination step to be recorded or accumulated, wherein, when it is determined in the output destination determination step that the output determination of the job corresponding to the job log information is the client computer, it is determined in the determination step that the job log information should not be recorded or accumulated in the recording/accumulation step, job log information determined in the determination step to be accumulated is extracted and accumulated from pieces of acquired job log information, and grasp of the number of output pages or charging of an output job is performed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Minari neither discloses nor suggests all of the features of Claim 27. In particular, Minari fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of a determination step of determining whether or not to record or accumulate the job log information acquired in the acquisition step, in accordance with the result of determination in the output destination determination step; and a recording/accumulation step of recording or accumulating the job log information determined in the determination step to be recorded or accumulated,

wherein, when it is determined in the output destination determination step that the output determination of the job corresponding to the job log information is the client computer, it is determined in the determination step that the job log information should not be recorded or accumulated.

As discussed above, Minari discloses a print job object has an attribute for specifying a printer to be used for printing the print job object. For example, it is disclosed that a printer refers to the attribute of a received print job object and performs printing processing based on whether or not the print job object attribute specifies the printer, and transfers the print job object to another printer set in the attribute when the attribute does not specify the printer. In addition, Minari discloses that the attribute may be used for processing the received print job object by determining whether or not the attribute in the print job object matches an attribute of the printer. Finally, Minari discloses that a printer determines whether or not print processing of the print job object should be performed in the printer itself or an alternative device using the attribute.

However, in the present invention, an output destination determination step determines whether the output destination of the job corresponding to the job log information is the information processing apparatus or the image forming apparatus and determines whether to record or accumulate the job log information acquired in the acquisition step, in accordance with the result of determination. In this manner, the unnecessary accumulation of job log information can be avoided.

In light of these deficiencies in Minari, Applicant submits that Claim 27 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

Finally, the previous claim count totaled 18 (26 paid-for), with 7 independent claims. The present amendment (with 3 newly-added dependent claims) brings the total claim count to 21. Accordingly, no claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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